

LINEBURNER

VOLUME 246 PRICELESS

FISHING TROPICAL FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

MAY 21

Features
Local Shire Fishery Draft
QLD Fishery Release
World Heritage Explained
Mitchell River Adventure
Plus Local Charter Reports





BRANSFORDS
Discount Tackle Shop
ABN 99 061 777 722

QUALIFIED ADVICE • FISHING CHARTERS • WHOLESALE/RETAIL • PHONE/WEB ORDERS
Web: www.bransfords.com.au Email: keith@bransfords.com.au Proprietor: Keith Graham

Captain Cook Hwy, Clifton Beach 4879
Ph: (07) 4055 3918
Best Tackle Prices in FNQ

Our Valued Contributors:



'Sharky' Shane Down
Local Expert



Steve Adamson
Dragon Lady Charters



Damian Collette
Saltaire & Allure Charters



Jake Wyatt
Exceed Sportfishing



Mick Hart
Magazine Chef



Fraser Allen
Local Deckhand



Keith Graham
Bransfords Tackle



Dylan Case
Nautical Marine Sales



Bruce Belcher
Daintree Croc Tours



Lynton Heffer (Heff)
Owner / Editor



Jase Teelow
Gunnell Rod Australia



Jake Collette
Master V Skipper



Jamie Beitzel
Fishing On the Daintree



Ethan 'Choppa' Scott
Junior Reporter



Contact Us if you'd like to
Contribute - Most Welcome

This magazine is published by The Line Burner business of Port Douglas & welcomes any Far Nth Qld contributions including editorials & photographs. The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the magazine, the editors, or the authors themselves. The magazine does not guarantee accuracy, validity, honesty or politeness of content, and we shall not be held responsible for the content of mentioned websites. The content (photos, art, articles etc...) found within are the property of the submitter and not our magazine.

Contacts: Ph 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au
info@fishingportdouglas.com.au
Fishing Port Douglas
Po Box 108
Port Douglas 4877

Front Cover:
Phil 'Bones' Laycock who is leading the way to a New Fishery Initiative for the Local Shire



FISHING
Port Douglas
River - Reef - Game
Ph: 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au

ESSENTIAL FISHING SERVICES

TACKLE STORES

Bransfords Discount Tackle Shop
On the Highway - Clifton Beach 40553918
See them on Instagram & Facebook
Nautical Marine - Pt Douglas 40996508

FISHING CHARTERS

Fishing Port Douglas - 0409610869
Dragon Lady Charters - 0429372466
Saltaire Charters - 0459323888
Exceed Sportfishing - 0497561867
On the Daintree - 40907638

BOAT & 4WD WRAPS

Port Signs - 0437031572

CAMPING CRYOVAC MEAT PACKAGES

Mossman Butchery - 40981669

4WD REPAIRS & SERVICING

Port Douglas Automotive - 40995177

BOAT SERVICING & REPAIRS

PD Marine Engineering - 0478546676
PD Suzuki Marine - 0419593694
Above Grade Marine Services - 0417195559

BATTERIES

Battery World Cairns - 131760

Long Term Plan for Us

By Phil 'Bones' Laycock

Executive summary first up:

The Douglas shire offers fishers a wide range of fishing experiences from the blue waters of the Great Barrier Reef to the Rainforest rivers of the Wet Tropics. There are few places like the Douglas shire for the diversity fishing experiences and fish species fishers can experience in a single day. The closeness of the reef means a fisher can fish the blue water in the morning for gamefish, return by lunchtime to catch a Barramundi in the estuary and fish the rainforest for Jungle perch before the sun sets.

Typical of most of the coastal communities of Far North Queensland fishing forms a key component of the values and identity of the people who live here. There are 1333 recreationally registered vessels in the two Douglas shire post codes, 4873 and 4877 a majority of which are small vessels of 3.2 to 6.5m suited to recreational fishing. With a population estimate of 12,426 on 30 June 2020 this means there is one boat for every 9.3 residents which is towards the top end of the range for Queensland communities. The growing membership of the Mossman boat and Fishing club based at their club house at Newell beach supports important social, recreational and community values for the members and the wider community. The enjoyment and accessibility of recreational fishing are core values



supporting why people choose to live in the Douglas shire.

Culturally fishing is central to the connection between people and country for the Yirrigandji and Eastern Yalanji traditional owners who continue to practice their lore and culture with respect their sea country, and the fish and animals that inhabit it. They have done so for innumerable generations and see themselves as the original custodians of the sea country and its resources. Cultural practices and lore are the tools they use to continue this connection to country and protect its future.

A small commercial fishing fleet is based in Port Douglas comprising inshore large mesh gill net fishers, reef line fishers and prawn trawlers. Though small in size Port Douglas has a long history as a fishing port and it continues to benefit from this industry. All Queensland licenced commercial fishers are currently able to fish within the waters of the Douglas shire meaning effort is difficult to predict and can potentially fluctuate significantly over time.

As the nearest point to access the Daintree rainforest and the waters of the Great Barrier Reef the Douglas shire has an international reputation as a quality tourist destination. 1.2 million people visit the Douglas shire each year generating \$450M with a value add of \$224M making Tourism the principal economic driver for the local economy. For the visiting fisher a significant sport fishing charter industry comprising both small boat ($\leq 7\text{m}$) inshore and river fishing charter businesses and large boat ($\geq 8\text{m}$) reef and game fishing operations is well established. At least 14 fishing charters are based in the Douglas shire. The Game fishing fleet grows each spring with the arrival of the giant Black Marlin for which this northern section of the Great Barrier Reef is world renowned.

Continued Next Page ...

THE GUNNELL ROD
AUSTRALIA

**Wonga
Beach**
Service Station
Daintree Road

Last fuel stop this side of
the Daintree River!

Fuel - Oil - Bait

Ice - Tackle - ATM

Boating Accessories

Fast Food & Groceries

Ph: 4098 7616

MARKHAM
timber
naturally the best choice

PO Box 687
5 Sawmill Road
Mossman 4873

Framing Timber
Wall Sheeting
Hardwood
CCA Logs
Moldings
Cypress
Fencing
Lattice

Brian & Tricia Markham
Proprietors

Ph: 07 4098 2197

Fax: 07 4098 2394



EXCEED
SPORTFISHING
PORT DOUGLAS

LET US MAKE YOUR EXPERIENCE THE BEST IT CAN BE

Ph: 0409 610 869

www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



Download your
Line Burner
now online

www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



- Pool servicing & water testing
- Private pools, Body Corporate, Holiday homes
- Selling pumps, chlorinators, filters, pool heaters
- Ask us about 9 Star energy saving pumps

Daryl Taylor

0404 286 187

Ph/Fax 4098 5780

happypools@bigpond.com

How to
avoid a
BIG
\$\$\$
BILL



.. the next time you need
assistance at sea off the
Douglas Shire coast.

Join ...

**Marine Rescue
Port Douglas**

& protect your lives,
your boat **AND**
your wallet.



07 4099 5392

marinerescuedouglas.org.au

**As essential as a
Bung in Your Boat**

A catch and release Black Marlin tournament is held annually in November in Port Douglas taking advantage of the fact the marina is the closest point to the fishing grounds of any Port on the Queensland coast. Visitors seeking light tackle sportfishing experiences in the inshore and estuary areas of the shire is popular supporting growth in the businesses servicing these clients. More traditional reef line fishing charters are very popular while the small boat reef sportfishing experience is a growing market well serviced by the Port Douglas fleet.

Purpose of the Program

With the support of funding from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation Reef Trust and under the guidance of the Douglas Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC) and Douglas Shire Council the community now has an opportunity to plan for their fishing future on their terms, prioritising the support of community and cultural values, resource stewardship and the development of economic opportunity as the first steps towards achieving the community's vision of an abundant and resilient fishery where the fishing experience is what brings value to the community.

In support of this vision and to add to the benefits for the fishery provided by the Reef Trust funding supporting stewardship, additional funding has been allocated from the council's sustainability budget to develop this document, the Douglas shire recreational fishing industry development action plan Douglas shire Recreational fishing industry development action plan – V1.35

The plan's primary role is to support the community's vision for an abundant and resilient local fishery cared for by the community. It will provide a foundation for the community to build a business case for a community managed fishery with a particular focus on protecting recreational and cultural fishing values in the inshore and near shore environments. The plan will do this by identifying actions the community can take to support the achievement of this vision and goals that support this vision. It will support:

a growth in stewardship of the fishery.

Recognition of community values linked to recreational and cultural fishing.

fishing tourism industry growth (all fishing experiences).

an understanding of the dynamics of the local fishery

identification of opportunities for resource sharing supporting an abundant and resilient fishery.

The development of this document has been supported by a community consultation and engagement process. Three community workshops have been held to promote stewardship and best practice by recreational and charter fishers and to discuss and identify issues and opportunities that can affect the future of the local fishery. These workshops were followed up with individual consultations with stakeholders representing Traditional owners, Fishing Tackle sales, Recreational fishers, Commercial fishers, Marine Park Management, Fisheries management, Charter fishing, Game fishing, Regional tourism organisation, Chamber of commerce, Local Marine Advisory committee. A total of 75 stakeholders have been directly engaged through this process.

Editor's Note: *Nothing of this scale has ever been undertaken in all my time in the shire (26yrs) with local, state and federal support. This is our opportunity to 'Brand' our Region as one of the best managed in the World to compliment our amazing fishery right on our doorstep.*

This announcement of the plan is still in a draft stage and if you would like to have input please contact

phillipjlaycock@gmail.com



FUEL • OIL • SEAFOOD • BAIT • ICE

Dickson Inlet, Port St, Port Douglas

Phone 4099 6792

0419 278 170

24 HOUR EMERGENCY PLUMBING SERVICES

**GENERAL MAINTENANCE
RENOVATIONS & NEW INSTALLATIONS
ROOFING
HIGH PRESSURE DRAIN CLEANING
HOT WATER SERVICE INSTALLATIONS**

NATHAN FITZGERALD
nfpplumbing@outlook.com.au

QBCC: 1294530
ABN: 679 641 30253



The Dragon's Den

By Steve Adamson

Well for us at Dragon Lady it has been a case of two sides of the coin this past month or so. We got off to a good start at the beginning with workable conditions weather wise, then literally sat idle for the best part of 12 days as the winds went to another level. Towards the end of this current period we ventured to sea but it was under some duress as the winds remained firm. Looking over the years the May period does tend to dish up indifferent weather as the region tries to dust off the remainder of the wet season and this year has proven no different. I do suspect we'll see similar conditions for the coming month ahead as a winter period starts to establish itself. Trade winds from the south east are our biggest enemy and it always correlates to a high pressure system running across 'The Bite' and southern states. It is the associated rain squalls which tip the scale for moments at a time which really make things uncomfortable.

When the skies were blue a couple of weeks ago the fishing was quite handy with a variety of fish on the move including coral trout, spanish mackerel plus the small and large mouth nannygai showed signs of moving into top gear. With the nannygai once we receive a run of good weather we anticipate some serious action from this species as they are entering into their initial burst of activity for the months ahead. They can let loose in a big way and in the past have had to drive off schools as too many fish were being landed for our liking.

Following the break due to weather as indicated, we pushed ahead in more challenging conditions and we were lucky the bulk of the time was fished on a low tide in the



DRAGON LADY
PORT DOUGLAS

0429372466

middle of the day making conditions a lot more comfortable and productive. With the lower tide you don't have the rolling swell coming across the main reef systems and by choosing more sheltered locations it worked out well.

Hugging closer to the reef we caught great numbers of fish ranging from coral trout, emperor species, stripeys and a good number of bigger moses perch. All these fish are great table species and it doesn't take long to pick up a collective feed. Interestingly we came across some big spanish mackerel up in the shallower grounds on the floating mackerel rig which indicates they are well and truly here and venturing across all water columns of the reef. The biggest we hooked up to was 20kg and it put on a most impressive show with lightening runs one after another. We did encounter a bit of shark activity on the odd trip and they proved to be old 'no go zones' which haven't improved over a few years and we know not to go back soon.

Looking ahead May always is traditionally a bit of a slow transition into the busy period. Our future bookings leading into the next two months look to sky rocket in a big way. It is highly recommended to book ahead to secure a spot. We have fingers crossed the weather gives us a kind hand of cards and we are always watching the Covid updates, particularly from the southern states which represent the majority of our trade in the coming months. ■

PORT DOUGLAS pda AUTOMOTIVE

Driven to deliver quality care and service for you and your car.

- ★ All Mechanical Repairs
- ★ Tyre Sales and Repair
- ★ EFI Diagnostics
- ★ Suspension Repairs
- ★ Air Conditioning
- ★ Mini Bus Servicing
- ★ Wheel Alignments
- ★ Auto Electrical
- ★ Safety Insp Stn AIS# 9119

P 4099 5177 E service@portdouglasautomotive.com.au
F 4099 5420 41 Warner Street, Port Douglas

Specialising in Marine Carpets

N.Q. Carpet Cleaning Services

More than a clean... ABN 804 2801 0097

Brad & Glenda Evans

Port Douglas, Mossman, Cairns and surrounding districts

Office Home Resort Marine Car Carpet & upholstery cleaned

Mob: 0429 935 206
Email: reefpark1@bigpond.com



Download your
Line Burner
now online

www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



5 / 12 Grant Street, Port Douglas

www.thebarbershopportdouglas.com.au



barbershopportdouglas



barbershopportdouglas

Group bookings for wedding parties or events
bookings@thebarbershopportdouglas.com.au

A 10+ YEARS
LOCAL BUSINESS

CUSTOM BUILT WEB SITES

ONLINE BOOKING

WEB DEVELOPMENT

ONLINE SHOPS

DESIGN

DIGITAL MARKETING

LET'S MEET

ICIT

4098 8268

www.icit.com.au

Annual Mitchell River Trip

By 'Sharky' Shane Down



As I do every year I make my annual trip up to the mighty Mitchell River in early May staying upon the expansive Hurricane cattle station. I've been doing this for a long time now and it never disappoints. It all done by private bookings via the station with only a handful of people allowed at selected spots on the river at any one time. It is one of the very few jewels left in the crown in QLD for this type of exclusive access. Luckily for me it is only a couple of hour drive by 4WD with camper trailer and small polycraft tinnie in tow - plus Thresher my dog.

I got really lucky with the weather with beautiful sunny days whilst I was there. As per usual it was set up the camper trailer, go and gather enough firewood for a few days, set up the boat on the river and then relax. The tranquility is the first thing you notice, nothing but the smell of the outback and nature noises in the background on the Mellaluecca lined river. I think you get the picture.

By sundown on the first day the crab pots are set in the water at various places and it's time to sit around the ever fixating camp fire over a good feed and a couple of coldies. Before you know it you hit the fart sack and then you are back up at sunrise with the tune of the birds singing away.

You don't waste a moment, checking crab pots, having a good coffee plus a feed to get you ready for the day's adventure ahead.

Before you know it, with rod in hand you are exploring this incredible stretch of river. On a light rod with a popper you are catching sooty grunter under the Mallaluecas on the bank as you go and spotting various wildlife as you travel. Sunning freshwater crocodiles on logs, kangaroos visiting the main water and the abundance of native frogs, amazing bush insects and birds are just a side attraction. Hours just past by without you realising and by the time you

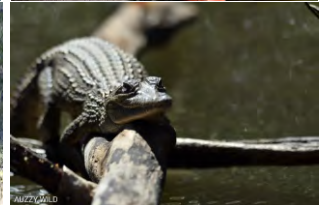
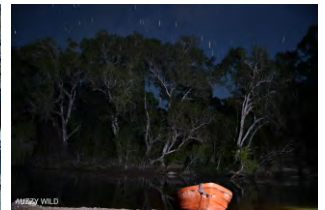
reach back to camp it's mid afternoon. Then it's time to re-set the crab pots, stoke the fire and settle into another spectacular sunset.

As you settle in the after dark the evening is for me a time to explore. The array of wildlife is more evident and with the aid of a good torch and headlight you'll see the bush and river come to life. Turtles in the river shallows, various crustaceans and fish plus fresh water crocs are just part of the spectacle. Along the banks the native frogs come out to play in droves plus a heap of other harmless critters. It is literally is the most unique night show you'll ever see with the vast array of animal life on display.

Several days were spent doing the same program but ever changing with what you see and experience. I also enjoyed a bit of reading with an engaging book on the river banks soaking it all in. The fishing was good and I was rewarded each night with a handy feed of red claw and good sized fresh water cherabin for my efforts. Oh Man, these morsels are so tasty it's not funny.

Talking with the owner of the station on the way out he was a little concerned with people nowadays not cleaning up properly upon departure. It's a privilege to be able to go to these pristine places and such behaviour could jeopardise such entry if not adhered to. I'm just attempting to get the message out there, don't stuff up - period ! If it continues these amazing places with access will just disappear.

This time around once again my stay on the Mitchell River at Hurricane Station was purely bliss. I'll be back next year in a heartbeat!! ■



SALTAIRE Charters

Phone
0409610869

Full Blown
Excitement!



South Mossman Roadhouse

6AM - 8PM
7 DAYS

Fishing Gear
Bait and Ice
Auto Care



Hot Food
Sandwiches
Cold Drinks

129 Alchera Drive Mossman QLD 4873 Ph: 07 4098 1656
ABN: 34 069 005 438 003

QLD Fisheries Communique

By Heff



This article may seem like some heavy reading but it is important and quite interesting having been part of the process in forming future legislation for our fishery in QLD. It is official and is publicly released for all to see.

The Reef Line Working Group met on 22-23 April 2021 in Cairns. This was the first meeting of the newly appointed working group. Former members were thanked for their contribution and new members were welcomed. The purpose of the working group meeting was to make a recommendation on the deferred harvest strategy decision for TACC setting for coral trout from 2020, provide recommendations for TAC setting for red throat emperor and to review the status and monitor the performance of the fishery based on 2020 data.

Fisheries Queensland provided a broad update on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027, more specific reform changes for the reef line fishery and conditions associated with wildlife trade operation accreditation for the reef line fishery, which has recently been approved to 18 January 2024.

Members were invited to provide a general update from their respective sectors. The commercial industry members provided updates on the impact of COVID-19 on the fishing sector. Export markets remain volatile and challenging. Increasing operation costs and little change in long-term beach price is generating concern about financial viability for fishing businesses. A combination of factors were raised that negatively influence confidence and wellbeing within the commercial fishing sector. Members agreed that the reef line fishery harvests a sustainable, line caught premium product and the industry is looking for support to promote the fishery both domestically and internationally to improve return on investment for participants. Industry welcomed the announcement of the vessel tracking working group and reiterated concern about ongoing costs and loss of productivity when units aren't reliable.

The Charter member provided an update on impacts to charter fishing businesses, stating that given their reliance on tourism, 2020 was effectively a write off for operators due to COVID-19 restrictions. With the reopening of domestic borders, the charter

season in 2021 is flourishing, but relies on continued interstate tourism. The recreational fishing members noted that there has been more public interest in the management of Queensland's fisheries, with mostly positive conversation about arrangements in place.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and conservation members supported the position that the fishery is in a good place, and that support for continual improvement is still required to address some remaining concerns.

Fisheries Queensland provided a 2020 calendar year update on the status of the fishery including revised standardised catch rates and harvest levels. The working group noted that while landings were slightly lower in 2020 than the 10-year (2011-2020) average, the impact of COVID-19 and disrupted domestic and international markets on harvest was less than expected.

Fisheries Queensland provided a refresher on the stock assessment undertaken for common coral trout in 2020. The working group noted the stock assessment estimated the spawning biomass for common coral trout in 2019 to be 59% of unfished levels, resulting in a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 1 073 tonnes to rebuild the stock to 60% spawning biomass.

Continued Next Page



FISHING
Port Douglas
River - Reef - Game
Ph: 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



AND NOW PRINT
AVAILABLE
AS WELL

TEXT:
0419757864

CALL:
07 4099 4353

ONTHESPOT
SIGNSPORT
DOUGLAS.COM.AU



Why troll around when
everything you need is here!

Find all your marine power needs under one roof.
Batteries, accessories, you need it, we've got it.



297 Mulgrave Rd Westcourt CAIRNS Ph. 13 17 60

Rods & Reels Servicing
Locally Port Douglas
By 'Sharky' Shane Down
Quality Parts, Best Pricing
& Quick Turn Around

Ph 0427 012 735



PORT DOUGLAS

FRESH Local Seafood

- PRAWNS • OYSTERS
- MUD CRABS • BUGS
- CALAMARI
- SMOKED & MARINATED

PRODUCE

- CONDIMENTS
- FRESH SALAD • PLATTERS
- LUNCH PACKS
- PRAWNS COOKED DAILY

TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10am - 5.00pm
SUNDAY 10am - 3.00pm (Closed Mondays)
 11 Grant Street, Port Douglas
 Phone: 4099 4960



FISHING
Port Douglas

River - Reef - Game
 Ph: 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au

Barrier Reef Tavern

Bistro
TAB - Pokies
Drive Thru
Bottleshop
Sky Channel
Pool Table



Reef St
 Four Mile
 Port Douglas

The working group then discussed improvements to the TAC's calculation process, in particular the transparent use and application of the recommended biological catch limit from the stock assessment, discount factors to account for uncertainty and the scaling factor to calculate an 'all coral trout' TAC. Based on the 2020 coral trout stock assessment and applying the harvest strategy decision rules a Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) of 858 tonnes was recommended, a 305 tonne reduction from the current TACC of 1163. Fisheries Queensland advised that the harvest strategy provides a maximum change rule of 200 tonnes, resulting in a final recommended TACC of 963 tonnes for the 2021-22 fishing season.

Industry members noted concerns that the reduction in the recommended TACC comes from a new stock assessment model which shows a lower biomass estimate than the previous model and had significant concerns with the potential economic impact on quota lease price associated with large TACC changes. The working group acknowledged the deterioration in the economic conditions of the fishery and the impost on commercial fishers imposed by a reduction in the TACC, but recognised the importance of following the harvest strategy process. The working group members supported adopting the final recommended TACC of 963 tonnes for the 2021-22 fishing season.

The working group agreed this would improve confidence in the management framework and the long-term sustainable outlook for the fishery. The working group then reviewed updated recreational and charter harvest estimates and noted that they were within the sector allocation decision rules, as such, no recreational or charter management changes were recommended. The working group noted this advice relates to the setting of the TACC for coral trout for the 2021/22 fishing season, and the working group will be asked to consider an updated stock assessment and provide advice on the coral trout TACC in 2022.

Fisheries Queensland provided a presentation on the 2020 redthroat emperor (RTE) stock assessment. The working group noted the stock assessment estimated the spawning biomass for RTE to be at 72% of unfished levels in 2019, resulting in a TAC recommendation of 930 tonnes to fish down to the 60% biomass target. Applying the sectoral allocations in the harvest strategy, a TACC of 558 tonnes was recommended, a net

reduction in the historic (2004) TACC of around 53 tonnes. The working group then reviewed updated recreational and charter harvest estimates and noted that they were well below the sectoral allocation in the harvest strategy, and as such supported no change to recreational or charter management. The working group recognised that while the commercial and charter representatives on the working group do not target RTE, adopting the harvest strategy process is important and supported adopting the final recommended TACC of 558 tonnes for the 2021-24 fishing seasons.

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol provided an update on fisheries and marine park compliance within the fishery, noting that compliance in the reef line fishery is generally good. GBRMPA also provided an update on compliance with marine park requirements, and the working group noted all sectors have had reported non-compliance issues with green zones and other fishing requirements within the marine park area. Working group members identified challenges with species identification, particularly for cod species, which can hinder compliance with fishing rules. The commercial sector identified that with vessel tracking now in place, a review of safe-anchorage requirements and clarification of zoning boundaries would assist the sector to be safer and more compliant. Industry members sought assistance from Fisheries Queensland to organise an out of session meeting with AMSA to discuss issues with marine safety and operational issues associated with line-of-sight restrictions on dories.

Fisheries Queensland provided a presentation on the methodology and outcomes from the BDO social and economic indicators report for commercial and charter fisheries. The working group noted the social and economic indicators dashboard that is available on the department's website is an important tool for businesses to view performance of the fishery.

Continued Next Page




CAIRNS
GAME FISHING CLUB

COCK & BALL
 "Famous for Value"
TAVERN

GREAT VALUE MEALS
NO. 1 POKIES PUB
BARS • FUNCTIONS

"Friendly Water Hole" Cnr. Grove & Digger Streets

ABOVE GRADE
MARINE SERVICES

SHIPWRIGHTS
FIBREGLASS SPECIALISTS



- ◆ BOAT BUILDING
- ◆ REFFITS
- ◆ CUSTOMISING
- ◆ RESPRAYS
- ◆ ANTI FOULS
- ◆ DETAILING

APPROVED INSURANCE REPAIRER

Info@abovegrade.com.au
www.abovegrade.com.au

0417195559

It was noted that the reef line fishery overall shows better performance compared to other Queensland fisheries, however, there are some businesses that are not working as efficiently as others. The recreational and charter members expressed the importance in measuring and comparing the social and economic information from the recreational and charter fisheries alongside the commercial sector information. The conservation member noted it is also important to obtain accurate information on exported product for this fishery, beyond initial point of sale, to highlight the importance of wildlife trade operation export accreditation to this fishery.

All working group members agreed to the importance of this social and economic information in assessing the performance of the fishery, and when considering the economic impacts of management or other changes. Members noted that survey participation from the reef line fishery was 19% and agreed they would encourage greater participation in future surveys. Fisheries Queensland said this will be particularly important to help measure and inform understanding the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fisheries Queensland provided an update on the new standardised commercial fishing reporting requirements that will commence on 1 September 2021. The working group noted the primary change for the reef line fishery is the introduction of a pre-trip notice that is required before commencing a fishing trip. Working group members asked clarifying questions and appreciated the use of worked examples throughout the presentation.

In considering the introduction of the TEP animal logbook, the conservation and GBRMPA member noted their concern that no take species that are not listed as TEP animals are not required to be reported in any logbook. Fisheries Queensland noted this will need to be discussed internally and will be added for discussion at the next working group meeting.

The working group noted a presentation and update on the new commercial fishing smartphone application (the app). The app will cover a range of fisheries and is designed to encompass the new reporting requirements coming into effect from 1 September 2021. The app also provides functionality to check whether vessel tracking units are operating and manual reporting functionality if a unit fails at sea. The working group noted the app will evolve over time with additional fisheries and enhanced features added. Fisheries Queensland outlined that engagement with industry through development of the app is a big focus and is seeking working group input on an engagement strategy. The working group noted that the recreational fishing app was released late last year and has now been downloaded more than 20 000 times. Feedback has been positive and the app is undergoing continual improvements and updates. As part of general business, the working group discussed the following:

- Following the recent release of the 'Seaspiracy' Netflix documentary, James Cook University and AMCS both published responses to the documentary. Industry asked

whether Fisheries Queensland will also respond, noting it would provide support to industry and defend Fisheries Queensland's management.

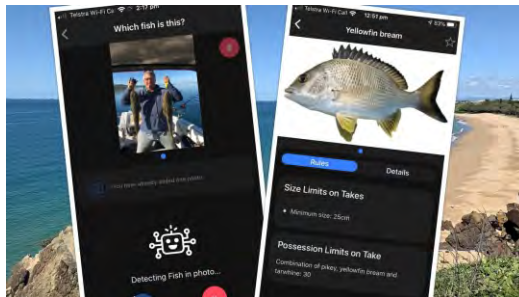
- A Vessel Tracking Working Group has been established to help support the departments broad review of the implementation and administration of vessel tracking. The group is primarily an industry consultative body to provide operational advice throughout the departments 18-month review process.

- Fisheries Queensland noted work is being undertaken into using vessel tracking data to validate and improve fisheries data and information (e.g. assisting in determining targeted effort, refining Fishery Monitoring survey areas and defining fishing footprints), and welcomes industry's idea of value adding through using vessel tracking data.

- There have been many requests throughout the meeting for government support in marketing and endorsing the reef line fishery and it was emphasised that industry has a large role to play in supporting and endorsing the fishery.

- The working group noted that it would be useful to formally discuss and identify fishery research priorities in working group meetings. It was requested that members consider and keep track of research priority ideas and bring them to the working group meetings for tabling (e.g. shark depredation research).

The next meeting will likely be an online meeting during the October spawning closure to discuss recreational fishing survey results and Wildlife Trade Operation conditions that are due to be reported on to the Commonwealth in mid-2022. The next TAC setting meeting will be in March 2022 when the fishery will return to scheduled decision making under the harvest strategy with an updated coral trout stock assessment. The Reef Line Working Group members are: Fisheries Queensland (Chair - Eddie Jebreen, Director (Management and Reform) – Kimberly Foster, Principal Fishery Manager – Tony Ham, Senior Fishery Manager – Ryan Keightley, Fisheries Manager – Chad Lunow), commercial fishing (Sean Stiff, Jake Kingdon, Chris Bolton, Susan Davenport) marketing/export (Barry Dun, Michael Wakeling), recreational fishing (Jason Bradford), charter fishing (Lynton Heffer) and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (Darren Cameron), conservation sector (Simon Miller) and external researcher (Prof. Morgan Pratchett).



FISHING
Port Douglas

River - Reef - Game

Ph: 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au

KYE CHAPPLE 
PEST CONTROL

Call: 0423249913

Far North Queensland
For All Pest Control Solutions
E: kyechapplepestcontrol@gmail.com

- Termites
- Cockroaches
- Ants
- Spiders
- Rats & Mice
- Mosquito's
- Flying Insects

PORT DOUGLAS

SUZUKI
MARINE

Only Fully Qualified
Suzuki Agency Here
All Outboards Serviced &
Repaired
SALES - SERVICE -
PARTS
Contact Peter
Ph: 0419 593 694 E:
spstaig@bigpond.com
18 Teamster Close
Craglie 4877




PORT DOUGLAS *Marine*

Ph: 07 4223 4725

DIESEL - INBOARD - OUTBOARD

- ENGINEERING
- SALES
- SERVICE
- PARTS
- REPAIRS



EVINRUDE



YANMAR

VOLVO PENTA




Advertise Here

1000's of followers via website downloads & Facebook Great Rates Plus the Best local reports & Fishing related Businesses



FISHING
Port Douglas
River - Reef - Game
Ph: 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



James Beitzel's
FISHING ON THE DAINTREE
RIVER, COAST and REEF
Call 0409610869

On the Daintree Charters

With Jamie Beitzel



It doesn't take too long for things to change quickly up on the Daintree as it proved this past few weeks. The first stages of May were warm and sunny and then all it took was one week or so of cool windy weather to change the landscape. In turn it changed the way you had to fish and what became the main targets.

When the weather was idyllic I found myself out around Snapper Island chasing up the likes of bar cheek trout, some large mouth nannygai and a few pelagics such as mackerel and trevally types. The mouth of the Daintree was also fishing superbly for some great sized golden trevally and other bits and pieces.

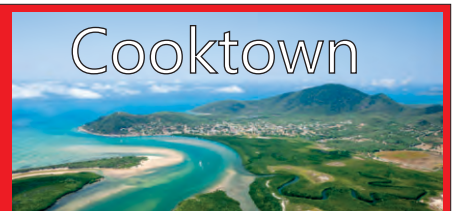
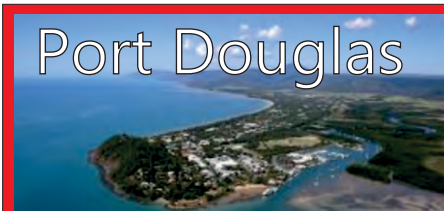
Once the cooler weather came in with a rush and dirty water was being pushed into the system aided by strong winds, I had to adapt almost overnight. Finding protected pockets of river were important and I also did a bit more fishing across the flats and also in the main channel but further up the river. It never amazes to surprise me what you can rustle up on this amazing river. Big grunter 50cm plus, 1m Queenfish, quality fingermark still, were all keeping the rods ticking over. Crab pots were being rewarded and it's a good time of year to be doing this as a bonus for the clients. Highly sort after species such as barra and mangrove jack went suddenly quiet with the onset of cooler conditions but this is to be expected. If someone really wants to catch a barra I know where they tend to hang but it does require

patience and a real concerted effort beyond normal realms.

I'm glad however the big queenfish are back in the system and they in my mind are right up there from a sport fishing point of view. I'm sure not too many have caught a metre plus fish in their life. I'm always working the tides and spots to be at the right time and generally more than not always find good numbers of other species and a few surprises.

The big bonus for the next several months is the abundance of croc spotting on my trips. They are all out on the banks and sunning themselves during the day. The Daintree River is the best by far for spotting these prehistoric animals and where I often travel, I see more than any other tour you'll partake in. This is value adding for the clients which they really lap up. There's not too many activities where you can potentially catch awesome river or coastal fish on a Rainforest World Heritage listed area, catch a mud crab or two and get up close to a big crocodile in the region on a consistent basis. I honestly do have it lucky and it makes my job so enjoyable.

Looking ahead the winter pattern is already here and as I've explained I've got plenty to see and do on my trips. Bookings look like going through the roof in the next few months and well into later in the year. All in all it's a pleasure to be kept busy and going to work each day. I'll see you on the Daintree or nearby soon ■



Phone: (07) 4098 5761
Cnr Captain Cook Highway & Port Douglas Rd, Pt Douglas QLD 4877
Email: portdouglasiga@cornetts.com.au
OPENING HOURS:
DAILY
MON-SUN: 7AM - 8PM

FULL RANGE OF GROCERIES
• LOCAL BREAD • DELICATESSEN
• FRESH FRUIT & VEGIES • FREEZER
• DAIRY • FRESH MEAT • BAIT & ICE

Phone: (07) 4069 5633
29 Helen St, Cooktown, QLD 4895
Email: cooktowniga@cornetts.com.au
OPENING HOURS:
MON-FRI: 8AM - 7PM
SAT: 8AM - 6PM
SUN: 8AM - 5PM



Whet your Whistle



POST OFFICE
HOTEL 1928

Drive thru Bottle Shop Modern TAB Facilities Jackpot Carnivale & Fast Lane Links Mill Street Mossman Telephone 4098 2151

Reel Cooking with Mick Hart

Spicy Coral Trout



With the days becoming cooler quickly there's nothing better to warm the body at night with healthy batch of local produce with a wonderful zing which will remain on the palate for some time afterwards.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 fillets of fresh coral trout
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons fresh ginger, finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, very finely chopped
- Green shallots finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper, adjust to taste



METHOD

Combine lemon juice, soy sauce, vegetable oil, ginger, garlic, shallots, paprika and cayenne pepper and stir to mix well. Place fish in a zipper seal bag and pour liquid mixture over it. Seal and marinate in the refrigerator for about 1 to 2 hours.

Oil grill grate really well and preheat grill to medium high. Grill fish for 4 minutes on each side. Flip the fish only once and brush with reserved marinade when flipped.

NOTE: Resist the temptation to over-cook fish until it "flakes," which indicates the fish is becoming dry. Serve with preferred garnishes.

Mossman Meats

FREE Delivery to
surrounding areas

DAILY

No Order too
Big or Small

Specialise in
Camping & Boating
Vacuumed Packages

Now
Stocking
Local
Seafood



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Free Home Delivery

All Beef & Pork
is locally
sourced from the
rich volcanic soils
of the Tablelands

Now Mossman's
Only Specialised
Butchery

PROUD
SUPPORTERS
of the
Junior & Senior
AFL CROCS

3 Junction Rd Mossman • Ph 07 40981669 • E bnbmeatsmossman@gmail.com



IT PAYS TO BOOK
PHONE BB'S DAINTREE RIVER CRUISES

Ph: 07 4098 7717

info@daintreerivercruises.com.au www.daintreerivercruises.com.au



magical daintree

World Heritage Clarification with Bruce Belcher

National parks are essential places for the public to enjoy and learn about their surrounding forests and countryside. Within these reserved parks, the public has a responsibility to observe the security of flora and fauna. That is, protection for native plants and animals.

On an international level, some but not all national parks can be selected or accepted into the World Heritage Listing. This is obviously a shot in the arm for local places like the Greater Daintree region. To be included on the list, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria. After reading the ten points, the one that seems relevant to this area states:

"To be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals."

In the past, I've overheard conversations about the status of World Heritage listing and there seems to be a level of mistrust about Australia's acceptance of this region into the listing. It seems almost like paranoia about losing control of our national parks which come under the scheme, but I don't know.

To manage such a responsibility with WHL obviously requires a national commitment. In 1988, the federal and state governments had established The Wet Tropics Management Authority and I see that this authority has been appointed as managers.

The Wet Tropics stretches along the north-east coast of Australia for about 450 kms and is made up largely of tropical rainforests. This biotope offers an extensive and varied array of plants, as well as marsupials and singing birds, along with other rare and endangered animals and plant species.



I understand that there is ongoing funding from both federal and state governments in managing this unique part of the world. It's important to know that the magical Daintree is in good hands. On the subject of uniqueness, I once heard a tour guide explain a typical scenario which gives this area a special level to be accepted. He described the mountain tops in the Cape Trib area where the tops are above a certain altitude, like a horizontal line through whereby animals have evolved since Gondwana times and have never been below that certain altitude. On the next mountain top there is the same scenario but with its own unique aspects of animals.

See you next month.



30yrs Experience
Best River & Coastal
Fishing Experience
Magical Scenery
Croc Spotting
Eco Tour Included
Call: 040961086

Douglas Community & Sports Club Inc.

Open 10am Mon-Sat
Open 9am Sunday Breakfast

UPSTAIRS COCKTAIL BAR

FRESH PRAWNS

DRINK SPECIALS
MONDAY - SATURDAY

A LA CARTÉ MENU

AIR-CONDITIONED
GAMING ROOM

STUNNING VIEWS

Weekly Member's Badge Draw
from 6:30pm Wednesdays - from 4:30pm Sundays

Phone: 4099 5553 Email: info@thetinshead-portdouglas.com.au